



FLORIDA BIRDING
& NATURE FESTIVAL



Fall 2018

Hosted by



YOUR LOVE OF BIRDS AND NATURE SHOWS US ALL HOW TO SOAR.

THANKS FOR MAKING THE FLORIDA BIRDING & NATURE
FESTIVAL ANOTHER GREAT SUCCESS.

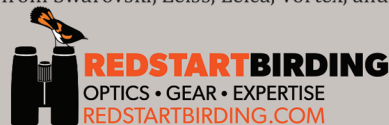
We're proud to be your partner.

Tampa Electric's Manatee Viewing Center welcomes you
from Nov. 1 through April 15, 2019.



**Telephones have come a long way.
So have birding optics.**

Visit our booth at the Florida Birding and Nature Festival to check out
the latest gear from Swarovski, Zeiss, Leica, Vortex, and more.



"Welcome to our college and the Festival!"
- Dr. Nancee Sorenson, Campus President

Welcome to Hillsborough County
Community College Brandon Campus,
located on an 82-acre site, primarily serving
the central portion of Hillsborough County
and the developing corporate-industrial
corridor along Interstates 75 and 4, the
contemporary campus was designed to
meet the needs of the community far into
the future.

Welcome



FLORIDA BIRDING
& NATURE FESTIVAL

We are delighted you have joined us! We are celebrating the wonders of the birds, wildlife, and natural lands that we enjoy in West Central Florida. We hope that you will see new birds, find new places to go, and learn new things about our area as you participate in this festival.

FIELD TRIPS

Our field trips showcase some of the best natural areas of our counties, protected as public parks or preserves, as private lands or more. There are trips to search for birds, butterflies, dragonflies, turtles and wildflowers. Most trips are on foot, but there are wagon rides, boat trips, and even canoeing.

SEMINARS

All seminars and workshops are included with the day's Festival admission, and even more wide-ranging. Yes, certainly birds, but much more on wildlife, natural areas, habitats, rehabilitation, and restoration. There is something interesting and entertaining for everyone.

KEYNOTES

Thursday's kickoff, in partnership with the Tampa Bay History Center, University of South Florida Libraries, and WUSF Radio, starts with a reception with hors d'oeuvres, and then the Pulitzer prize-winning author and historian, Jack E. Davis, will present. On Friday night the keynote is by acclaimed photographer Mac Stone, whose images and stories have appeared in BBC, National Geographic, CNN, and many others. A full buffet dinner will be served. On Saturday, after the buffet, Dr. Steve Kress, Executive Director of the Seabird Restoration Program and Cornell Laboratory Associate, will be speaking on his work restoring puffins to breeding islands in Maine.

NATURE EXPO

Don't forget the Expo, filling two rooms, and even more under tents outside! Both local vendors and those who have migrated a great distance to show, invite, and educate you. Plan a trip, see wildlife, learn about nature, try binoculars, and enjoy art. See the new Subaru up close. And visit the food trucks for your lunch!

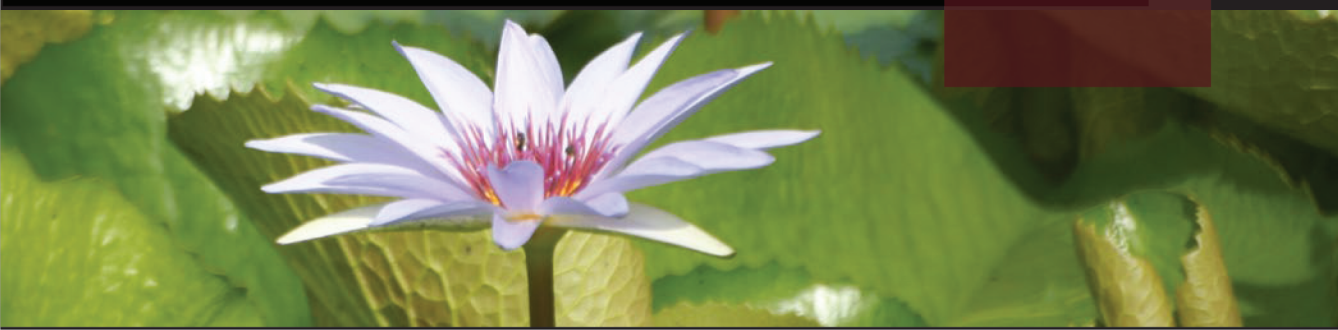
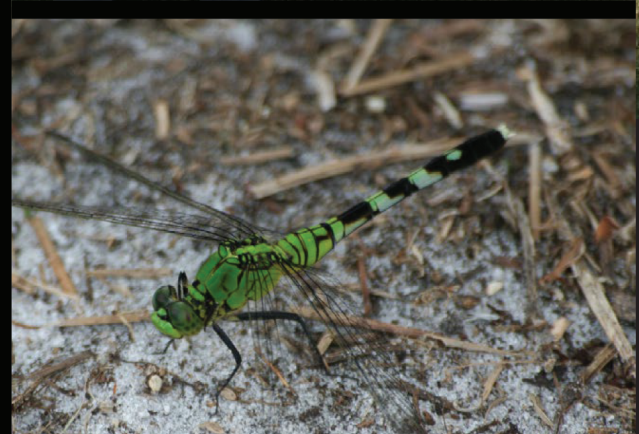
KIDS' SESSIONS

On Saturday, engaging and hands-on activities entertain our children about wildlife and nature.



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Keynote Events

Keynote Events will all be held in the Student Services Building on campus.

THURSDAY October 11, 2018 | Doors Open 5:00 pm

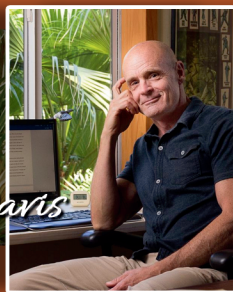
The Festival's Kickoff

Jack E. Davis, Pulitzer Prize-winning Author & Historian

Jack E. Davis is the author of *An Everglades Providence: Marjory Stoneman Douglas and the American Environmental Century* (2009), which won a gold medal in the Florida Book Awards. His latest book, *The Gulf: The Making of an American Sea* (2017) received the 2018 Pulitzer Prize. In the works now, the next book is a natural and cultural history of the bald eagle, *Bird of Paradise: How the Bald Eagle Saved the Soul of America.*

Full event admission includes a reception with hors d'oeuvres and a beer and wine cash bar.

Jack E. Davis



Mac Stone



Dr. Steve Kress



FRIDAY October 12, 2018 | Doors Open 5:00 pm

Mac Stone, Acclaimed Photographer

Over the years, Mac Stone's camera has carried him to some of the most remote and imperiled areas this side of the globe. His images and stories have appeared in BBC, National Geographic, CNN, NPR, Audubon, WWF and many others. Stone's TED talk about his body of work has now been viewed over a million times. Through photography, Stone strives to start new conversations and expose the dynamic relationship between mankind and the natural world.

Full event admission includes a buffet dinner.

SATURDAY October 13, 2018 | Doors Open 5:00 pm

Dr. Steve Kress, Project Puffin Director

Dr. Steve Kress is the Executive Director of the Seabird Restoration Program and Vice President for Bird Conservation of the National Audubon Society. He is also a Laboratory Associate at the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology, where he teaches an annual birding course. As the Manager of National Audubon's Maine Coastal Island Sanctuaries, he began Project Puffin in 1973. Dr. Kress will be speaking on his successful work restoring puffins to breeding islands in Maine, for which he received a Pew Charitable Trust Award this September. Full event admission includes a buffet dinner.

Seminars AT-A-GLANCE

ROOM A

CONSERVATION LANDS

Moderator: *Brandt Henningsen*

- 9 am • ELAPP Land Preservation
- 10 am • Beyond Parks
- 11 am • Coastal Restoration

FLORIDA BIRDS

Moderator: *Mark Rachal*

- 1 pm • Florida Waterfowl
- 2 pm • Florida Scrub-Jays
- 3 pm • Pelicans
- 4 pm • Crested Caracaras

THE INSECT WORLD

Moderator: *John Lampkin*

- 9 am • Beekeeping
- 10 am • Bugs in Your Bloomers
- 11 am • Dragonflies

RAPTORS & ANHINGAS

Moderator: *Mary Keith*

- 1 pm • Harpy Eagles
- 2 pm • Raptors on the Wind
- 3 pm • Anhingas: Master Fishermen
- 4 pm • The Communal Kite

ROOM B

Moderator: *Ann Paul*

- Sea Level Rise
- Manatees

Moderator: *Joe Guidry*

- All About Optics
- National Wildlife Refuges
- Federal Duck Stamps

FLORIDA MAMMALS

Moderator: *Stan Kroh*

- Florida Black Bears
- Florida's Forest Bats

BIRDING SKILLS PLUS

Moderator: *Charlie Fisher*

- Introduction to eBird
- Beach Nesting Birds
- Building Birding Skills
- Wilson's Plovers

ROOM C

Moderator: *Fred Webb*

- Optics for the Tropics
- The Scrub-Jay Dilemma

GLOBAL BIRDS & ECOTOURISM

Moderator: *Ged Caddock*

- Conservation Positive Ecotourism
- Birds of the Falkand Islands
- Birds of Cuba
- Birds of East Africa

REPTILES

Moderator: *George Heinrich*

- The Big Turtle Year
- Nile Monitors
- Targeting Tegus

BIRDING YOUR GARDEN

Moderator: *Sandy Reed*

- Bird Feeding 101
- Wildlife Landscaping
- Birding Your Backyard
- Landscaping for Birds

FRIDAY

SATURDAY



Explore the Wild Side of Tampa Bay

🦋 16 Conservation Parks

🦋 Bird-watching

🦋 Fishing

🦋 Kayaking/Canoeing

🦋 Hiking

🦋 More than 62,000 acres of Nature Preserves



**Hillsborough
County Florida**

Conservation & Environmental
Lands Management

HCFLGov.net/Conservation

Field Trips AT-A-GLANCE



Carpooling Time Carpoolers meet and depart from the HCC Brandon campus

Fri-T1	6:30	8:00 Shell Key	11:15
Fri-T2	7:00	8:00 Duette Preserve	10:00
Fri-T3	7:00	8:00 Outback Key	11:15
Fri-T4	7:15	8:30 Honeymoon Island	11:30
Fri-T5		8:15 9:00 Hillsborough River	Noon
Fri-T6		8:00 9:00 Mosaic Wellfield	Noon
Fri-T7		1:00 1:30 Lettuce Lake	4:00
Fri-T8		1:15 2:00 Hillsborough River	5:00
Fri-T9	6:45	8:00 Cross Bar Ranch	Noon
Fri-T10		8:00 9:00 Se7en Wetlands	Noon



DISCOVER THE WILDS OF FLORIDA
in southern Hillsborough County

Located in Ruskin
along the beautiful
Little Manatee River

Learn more at
WWW.CAMPBAYOU.ORG



Sat-T1	6:45	7:30 Schultz Preserve	11:30
Sat-T2	6:30	7:30 Fort De Soto	1:00
Sat-T3	7:00	8:00 Lower Green Swamp	11:00
Sat-T4	7:15	8:30 Perico Preserve	11:00
Sat-T5		8:00 9:00 Terra Ceia Aquatic Preserve	Noon
Sat-T6		8:15 9:00 Mosaic Education Center	12:30
Sat-T7		12:15 1:00 Schultz Preserve	4:00
Sat-T8	7:00	8:00 Bird Banding in Hammock Park	Noon

Sun-T1	6:30	7:30 Fort De Soto	1:00
Sun-T2	7:00	8:00 Celery Fields	11:00
Sun-T4	7:30	8:30 Egmont Key	Noon
Sun-T5	7:30	8:30 Circle B Bar Reserve	1:00
Sun-T6		8:00 9:00 Captain Gus' Crabby Adventure	1:00

Seminars

On campus at Hillsborough Community College, Brandon

FRIDAY

ELAPP: What's next for Florida's largest local land preservation program

Ross Dickerson

9:00 am | Room A

The citizens of Hillsborough County have successfully preserved more than 61,000 acres over the past 30 years. This presentation will provide an overview of the ELAPP's history, accomplishments, and future plans to preserve critical habitat and linkages within an urbanizing county.

Beyond Parks: Protecting natural areas to benefit wildlife and people

Andy Fairbanks

10:00 am | Room A

Focusing on the Tampa Bay watershed, this presentation will highlight research supporting the intuitive ecological wisdom that preserving wild places is good for human health and economy. It will also provide useful resources for people interested in this subject.

Sea Level Rise and Shorebirds

Rocky Milburn and Kent Bailey

10:00 am | Room B

How will rising seas impact shorebirds and where will they go when existing beach areas are submerged? Making space for shorebird, nesting turtles and other coastal wildlife in an ever diminishing coastal habitat needs to be discussed.

Optics for the Tropics: Binoculars for biologists

Joni Ellis

10:00 am | Room C

Socially Responsible Birding! Learn how a pair of binoculars can change a life, and improve conservation awareness in a community. Since 2001 Optics for the Tropics has been building capacity for bird conservation in the Caribbean and Latin America. Details and great slides at this talk!

Coastal Restoration: An overview of coastal ecosystem restoration for Tampa Bay

Dr. Brandt Henningsen

11:00 am | Room A

This presentation will provide an overview of the 99 coastal ecosystem projects for Tampa Bay that have been implemented since 1989 by the SWIM Program of the Southwest Florida Water Management District. Details will include restoration guidelines and goals, design and construction methods, and examples of several projects performed for Tampa Bay.

Manatees: Biology, population status, and protection

Joyce Kleen

11:00 am | Room B

Joyce Kleen, Wildlife Biologist for Crystal River National Wildlife Refuge Complex, will speak about our favorite and iconic water-living mammal, the Florida manatee. Ms. Kleen will discuss the animal's unique physical structure, adaptations to life in tropical waters, and population status through aerial surveys. She will also present conservation measures that hopefully will ensure a future for manatees in Florida.

The Florida Scrub-Jay Dilemma

Milton Heiberg

11:00 am | Room C

Milton will give a brief history of the Florida Scrub-Jay and its decreasing population due to loss of habitat. He will parallel this loss of habitat with it being a major source of the aquifer's replenishment. Possible remedies will be presented to save scrub jays from extinction as well as protecting scrub areas and our drinking water from indiscriminate builders and development.

The Waterfowl of Florida

Paul Gray

1:00 pm | Room A

Waterfowl - the ducks, geese and swans - are among the most treasured birds in human cultures. They are pets, food, watch "dogs," collector's items, the subject of literature and art, harbingers of changing seasons, hunting and birding trophies and even have had dog breeds created just to hunt them. Florida hosts most North American species.



October 12, 2018

All About Optics

Adrian Lesak

1:00 pm | Room B

In this seminar, Adrian Lesak of Vortex Optics will cover the anatomy, function, quality, and use of binoculars and spotting scopes with special emphasis on weighing trade-offs and choosing the right optic for you.

Ecotourism: It can be a conservation positive

Ged Caddick

1:00 pm | Room C

Ecotour owner and entrepreneur, Ged Caddick, describes his company's involvement in the communities where he leads tours, and the benefits that ecotourism can offer to a local economy and to protect the natural resources and the rare animals that people will pay to travel to see. How can a tour company contribute to the long-term sustainability of the most special and unique places on our planet?

Florida Scrub-Jays: What they can tell us about landscapes and species conservation

Jon Thaxton

2:00 pm | Room A

In this presentation we will review some of the first data collected that focused on the impacts that human-altered landscapes (suburbs) had on certain Florida Scrub-Jay behaviors, and how these simple behavior reactions ultimately lead to the decline and ultimate localized extirpation of the species.

National Wildlife Refuges: America's best kept secret

Patrick Mundus

2:00 pm | Room B

This program will explore the history of the National Wildlife Refuge system including important early sanctuaries in Florida, and will address both the history and wildlife of our local Pinellas refuges, and Egmont Key. Egmont Key is one of Florida's largest nesting bird sanctuaries, home to over 30,000 pairs of nesting birds each year.

Birds of the Falkland Islands: Where nature is still in charge

Lindsay and Tom Bell

2:00 pm | Room C

The incredible, windswept Falkland Islands are one of the last wildlife wonders of the world. Unspoiled beaches, rolling tussock fields and sheer cliffs provide a natural haven for many Falkland Island species. Tom and Lindsay Bell will share their wildlife experiences and amazing photos of these unique islands.

Pelicans

Mark Rachal

3:00 pm | Room A

Mark Rachal will share information about Brown Pelican biology and behavior, including sibling rivalry, foraging, population in Florida, history of the species' conservation in the United States, and other facts about our most beloved and iconic Florida bird.

Federal Duck Stamps

Paul Baicich

3:00 pm | Room B

The Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation [Duck] Stamp has been a conservation institution since the mid-1930s. It is an under-appreciated funding vehicle for National Wildlife Refuge land and a "free pass" to refuges which may charge an entry fee. It is also an institution in a bit of trouble, one which requires some modest changes to adjust to today's needs. In this talk, Paul Baicich will discuss the stamp's successes and failures, its past and possible future.

The Birds of Cuba

Ana Maria Fielding

3:00 pm | Room C

During her Cuba-focused talk, Ana Maria Fielding will introduce us to Cuba, talk about how Americans can travel there, the kind of experiences they can expect to encounter, and most importantly Cuba's birdlife: Important bird areas; endemic, native, and migratory species, including rare and endangered species as well as the peculiarity that the smallest bird in the world is native to Cuba.

Florida's Crested Caracaras: Life history, status, and distribution

Dave Goodwin

4:00 pm | Room A

The Crested Caracara is one of the most fascinating of Central Florida's "specialties". While closely related to the falcons, these birds are very different in many ways. Discover their fascinating behaviors and learn about their current status and range revealed in Florida's latest breeding bird atlas field work.

The Birds of Uganda and East Africa

Herbert Byaruhanga

4:00 pm | Room C

Mr. Byaruhanga, Director of Wild Nature Destinations, lives and works in Uganda. He will be talking about the fascinating birds and other animals and habitats of Uganda and East Africa.

Seminars

On campus at Hillsborough Community College, Brandon

SATURDAY

Beekeeping: Knowing the life of bees

Miles Carter

9:00 am | Room A

Do not expect a fancy PowerPoint program! This will be a Master Beekeeper talking about the down and dirty, stings and all, of raising bees. He'll cover the lives of bees, from who gets to be Queen Bee, how to keep them happy, to what flowers they prefer, and how to handle the honey. Oh, and why go to Taco Bell when they swarm... Intrigued? Come learn more.

The Big Turtle Year: Celebrating wild turtles across the United States

George Heinrich

9:00 am | Room C

The Florida Turtle Conservation Trust's conservation education project, The Big Turtle Year, focused on increasing awareness regarding the status of the 62 species that occur in the most turtle-rich country. Throughout 2017, George L. Heinrich and colleagues traveled across the United States in an effort to see as many species as possible during a single year, while examining threats and actions needed.

Bugs in Your Bloomers

John Lampkin

10:00 am | Room A

Insects and flowering plants have been co-evolving for 135 million years and as a result, both groups have flourished, becoming our most abundant flora and fauna. The relationships are more varied, complex and sophisticated than first meets the eye. Armed with macro lens and thinking cap, John Lampkin has been investigating, and will share some surprising insights he has documented in this beautiful photographic presentation.

Florida Black Bears

Sarah Peltier

10:00 am | Room B

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's Bear Biologist Sarah Peltier will offer a presentation about black bears in Florida. She will discuss the biology, behavior, and management of the Florida black bear; as well as what you should do if you encounter a bear and how you can reduce human-bear conflicts on your property/in your community.

Nile Monitors

Dr. Todd Campbell

10:00 am | Room C

The Nile monitor, a giant carnivorous lizard from Africa, is established in three locations in Florida. Dr. Campbell has been studying the largest population since 2003. Recent freeze events, and continual low-level trapping efforts have prevented them from spreading as rapidly as once predicted, but eradication is unlikely without a well-funded, coordinated effort.

Dragonflies

Paul Trunk

11:00 am | Room A

Dragonflies are commonly seen but may be the least understood of any of our flying creatures. Paul will be presenting a program on the biology and natural history of dragonflies found in west central Florida. He will also show some of the more common species seen in our area.

Florida's Forest Bats

Shari Blissett-Clark

11:00 am | Room B

The misconceptions about Florida's bats are dispelled and replaced with fascinating facts and their irreplaceable contribution to Florida's habitats. Bats provide important environmental services that factor heavily into human health as well, and discussions will include simple steps that anyone can take to help these beneficial mammals. And you'll have the opportunity to meet live Florida bats after the program!

Targeting Tegus for Removal

Tessie Offner

11:00 am | Room C

Large, nonnative omnivorous lizards known as Argentine black and white tegus have been reported on Hillsborough County public lands since 2005 and threaten native Florida species. Hear about the goals and preliminary results of the project funded by FWC and conducted by Wildlands Conservation to survey and remove tegus from county properties, then learn how to identify and report this invasive species.

Harpy Eagles

Jim Beckman

1:00 pm | Room A

Join us as we take you to the rainforests of Panama with a group of birders on their quest to observe a young Harpy Eagle in its nest in the Darien Province. The group had the good fortune to live for several days among the Embera tribe in a primitive village. Learn of their amazing adventure through anecdotes and photographs.

October 13, 2018

eBird: An introduction from the birder's perspective

Charlie Fisher

1:00 pm | Room B

eBird is a terrifically successful scientific tool, but what can it do for you as a birder? The bargain is if you follow the rules of the scientific community and share your data with them, you get incredible birding tools in return. Discussed will be practical matters such as how the website works, and fun competitive things like monthly contests.

Bird Feeding 101

Lucy Polak

1:00 pm | Room C

Make your yard "bird-friendly" in order to attract the greatest variety and number of birds by providing the basics of food, water, shelter, and nesting areas. Learn the elements of a thoughtful bird feeding station, which includes different types of feeders and the foods that will work well in your yard.

Raptors on the Wind

Dr. Gabriel Vargo

2:00 pm | Room A

Several live birds of prey will be used to illustrate aspects of predator-prey relationships, morphological adaptations that ensure success as predators, and their role in maintaining healthy, balanced ecosystems. The basic natural history of each species is also discussed along with the impact of humans on their habitats and populations.

Florida's Beach Nesting Birds

Morgan Parks

2:00 pm | Room B

In this talk we will learn about the biology, status, protections and how anyone with an interest in shorebirds, can participate in protecting Florida's beach nesting birds.

Wildlife Landscaping: Supporting declining wildlife

Joel Jackson

2:00 pm | Room C

This session will suggest actions that Florida's gardeners can take to help save components of Florida's wildlife that are silently declining at an alarming rate. These species are not just birds, but are our native bees, butterflies, bats and even frogs. To quote Theodore Roosevelt, "Do what you can, with what you have, where you are."

Anhingas: Master fishermen of Florida swamps

Dr. Jerry Jackson

3:00 pm | Room A

Anhingas are characteristic of freshwater habitats in the Southeast and are nowhere more common than in Florida swamps – yet their behavior and ecology are not well known. In this presentation Dr. Jackson will focus on their nesting, chick development, and some of their unusual

Building Birding Skills: Focus on Florida

Adam Kent

3:00 pm | Room B

During this presentation, we'll explore different strategies for improving bird ID skills and more. What works best depends on the person, so we'll discuss a variety of techniques. Learn how to apply the expression "failure is fertilizer" to refine your birding skills. We'll focus on six clues to learn fun ways to practice and improve your birding!

Birding Your Backyard: Bringing the birds to you!

Sandy Reed

3:00 pm | Room C

Learn effective tips to attract birds to your yard by using native plants, feeders, water features, providing shelter and nest boxes. Florida is one of the top places to go birding in North America with a total of 429 species observed this year. By providing what the birds need, you help them and benefit by seeing them visit your "habitat".

The Communal Kite: How the social nature is imperative to its survival

Gina Kent

4:00 pm | Room A

Unlike many raptors, Swallow-tailed Kites are social throughout their annual cycle, in all aspects of their behavior. Learn how they nest and roost in neighborhoods, form large pre-migratory communal roosts, forage in large aggregations, and assist each other in locating food and detecting predators.

Wilson's Plovers

Lauren Deaner

4:00 pm | Room B

Join Lauren Deaner for a tale of two plovers: how Wilson's Plover pairs divide and conquer nest attendance duties in their efforts to hatch their eggs and avoid predation.

Landscaping for Birds and Wildlife

Dr. Steve Kress

4:00 pm | Room C

Join Dr. Steve Kress, Vice President for Bird Conservation of the National Audubon Society and Associate with Cornell Laboratory, for a presentation on landscaping for birds and wildlife.



Around the Festival

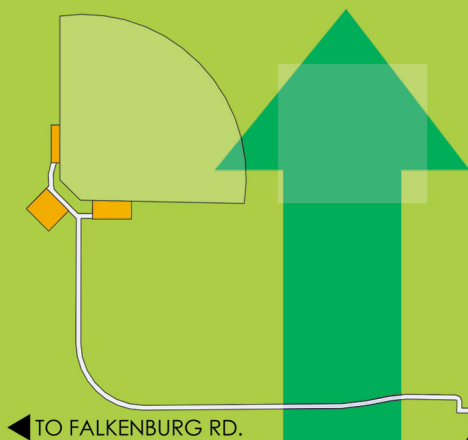
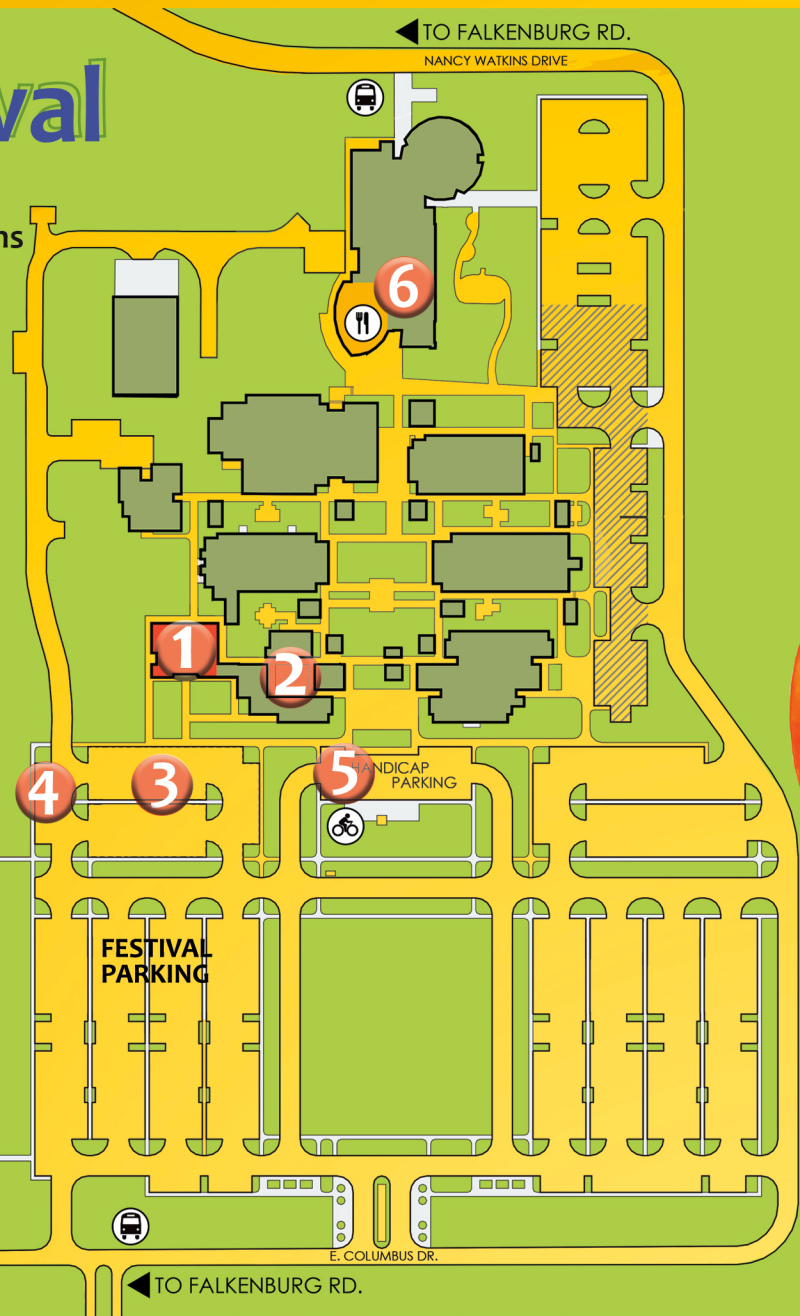
- 1 Registration & EXPO Room 1
- 2 EXPO Room 2 & Seminar Rooms
- 3 Outdoor EXPO
- 4 Kids' activities
- 5 Food Trucks
- 6 Keynote Events



HCC

Brandon Campus

10451 Nancy Watkins Dr,
Tampa



Getting Here

- From the I-75 southbound, take exit 260 for FL-574/Martin Luther King Jr Boulevard. Use the 3rd lane from the right to turn right onto MLK. In 0.4 miles, use the left-most lane at the signal to turn left onto N Falkenburg Road. In 0.8 miles, turn left onto Nancy Watkins Drive to reach the campus.
- From the I-75 northbound, take exit 257 for FL-60 W. Turn left onto FL-60 W/E Adamo Drive. In 0.5 miles, turn right onto S Falkenburg Road. In 1/8 miles, turn right onto Nancy Watkins Drive to reach the campus.

Thursday

Opening Keynote Event

Seminars 9am-5pm
Field Trips 7am-5pm
Food Trucks 11am-2pm
Vendor Expo 9am-4pm
Keynote Events 5pm

Friday

18 Seminars
Nature Expo
Lunch Food Trucks
10 Field Trips
Dinner Keynote Event

Saturday

21 Seminars
Nature Expo
Lunch Food Trucks
Kids' Sessions
9 Field Trips
Dinner Keynote Event

Sunday

5 Field Trips



FLORIDA BIRDING & NATURE FESTIVAL



The Festival is pleased to include a Silent Auction in the activities offered to our attendees on Friday and Saturday. Auction items will be on display in the Nature Expo area. The feature items are a Buccaneers certificate for four (4) to a VIP Training Camp Experience, and a print provided by Ybor bird artist John Costin! All funds generated by the Silent Auction will benefit the Festival's operations.



Food trucks available from 11:00am to 2:00pm Fri & Sat
Buffet meal served with every Keynote event





EAGLE AUDUBON SOCIETY



Maria Saraceno



Hillsborough County Florida



Potter Pat

my sweet bees apiaries

Vendors & Exhibitors

For our Camp Bayou Kids' Sessions,
turn the page ----->



Raptor Center
Of TAMPA BAY, Inc.



Wildlands
Conservation



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Cats Indoors!
North Shore Birding Festival
Better Butterfly Creations
Thomas J Hopfensperger Painting & Scarves

Kids' Sessions

SATURDAY ONLY

Ongoing throughout the day will be the Jr. Birder program 'Scavenger Hunt' using paper birds posted at Expo vendor tables. Kids will take a 'birding guide' and note each paper bird they find. When all 15 are found, kids will receive a Jr. Birder Certificate!

Morning

BIRDS AND THEIR ADAPTATIONS

10:00 am

James Lingle covers a variety of bird features such as beaks, feet, nests, and food; all explored with activities.

AQUATIC CRITTERS

11:00 am

With a collecting pan and a scoop of river water, Dolly Cummings helps children discover the creatures that live there!

FREE-STYLE INQUIRY

12:00 noon

Kids can investigate a few nature stations on their own, with leaders available for questions.

Children (or groups of children) must be accompanied by a responsible adult, who must be present throughout the entire session.

Sessions run for 30-40 minutes, and can accommodate 15 participants.

All ages admitted at any session, but mornings are geared towards preschool to 3rd grade, and afternoons are best for 4th to 6th graders.



Afternoon

BIRDS AND THEIR ADAPTATIONS

1:00 pm

James Lingle covers a variety of bird features such as beaks, feet, nests, and food; all explored with activities.

AQUATIC CRITTERS

2:00 pm

With a collecting pan and a scoop of river water, Dolly Cummings helps children discover the creatures that live there!

Poster Session

In the Student Services Building, from 5:00-6:00 pm

Saturday 5:00-6:00 pm

The Florida Birding and Nature Festival is pleased to offer our local student researchers this opportunity to share their research with the community. Researchers submitted abstracts which were judged by a panel of university faculty members. The accepted projects will be on display Saturday evening, Oct 13, during the social hour preceding dinner in the Student Services Building.

The researchers will be present to discuss their projects with you, so please stop by.

A Study of Environmental Stress and the Impact It Has on the Evolution of the Little Blue Heron

Lynn Heller
University of Tampa
Undergraduate Student

The focus of this research entails the non-invasive collection and genetic analyzation of *Egretta caerulea*, the little blue heron (LBH). Techniques include DNA extraction, PCR, gel electrophoresis, and capillary electrophoresis. The purpose of this study has been to sample birds and genotype them at multiple microsatellite loci. I will assess the number or percent of heterozygotes, as well as the number of alleles and number of unique alleles of LBH in contrasting environments. It is hypothesized that a stressful environment will negatively influence the rate of genetic variation in the LBH population. Extracting DNA from feathers using basic methodology has not yielded the quantity necessary for scoring. The principle extraction method has been determined. The microsatellites used in this research were created for *Egretta eulophotes* and several other species from this genus, excluding *Egretta caerulea*. Out of 15 microsatellites tested, 14 have worked. This research will provide data as a major resource for future conservation genetic studies not just on the Little Blue Heron, but other species of herons as well.

Light Pollution Increases West Nile Virus Competence of a Ubiquitous Passerine Reservoir Species

Authors: Meredith E. Kernbach¹, Daniel J. Newhouse², Jeanette M. Miller¹, Richard J. Hall³, Justin Gibbons^{1,4}, Jenna Oberstaller¹, Rays Jiang¹, Thomas R. Unnasch¹, Nathan D. Burkett-Cadena⁴, Christopher N. Balakrishnan², Lynn B. Martin¹

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Methodology:

Wild caught house sparrows were exposed to dim light at night (dLAN) in captivity for 1-3 weeks prior to and during West Nile virus (WNV) exposure/infection. Viral titer and body mass were measured on days 2, 4, 6, and 10 following infection, and mortality was closely monitored throughout the course of infection.

Results:

We found that birds exposed to dLAN had a significantly higher viral titer and lost a significant proportion of body mass on day 6 post exposure. However, birds did not die at higher rates. Approximately half of the birds that were exposed to dLAN remained infectious to vectors for two days longer than controls.

Discussion/Implications:

Using a SEIR (susceptible, exposed, infected, recovered) mathematical model to determine how these results might hold consequences in the community. This extension of infectious period in birds exposed to dLAN increases WNV outbreak potential by 41% (see <https://www.biorxiv.org/content/biorxiv/early/2018/02/21/269209.full.pdf>).

This emphasizes the importance of attenuating light pollution in nature, as reservoir species may experience immune dysfunction leading to the increased risk of emergent infectious diseases and spillover in avian communities.

Field Trips

Carpoolers meet and depart from the HCC Brandon campus

FRIDAY

Shell Key Preserve, Pinellas County – Boat Trip

8:00 – 11:15 am (carpool leaves 6:30 am)

Fri-T1 | \$50

It's a short boat ride to Shell Key, an undeveloped barrier island in South Pinellas County with important migrant, wintering, and breeding shorebird habitats. With preserve managers Pam Leasure and Eric Teitelbaum, you'll see flocks of birds foraging on the expansive mudflats and along the Gulf beachside. White sand dunes and saltmarsh offer habitat variety. Wear comfortable shoes for saltwater and beach walking. Shell Key is a barrier island, sometimes hot, always sandy and wild (no facilities).

Duette Preserve – Wagon Tour

8:00 – 10:00 am (carpool leaves 7:00 am)

Fri-T2 | \$30

The "Natural and Cultural History of Duette Preserve." Join preserve manager Mike Elswick, Johnny McLeod, and Cindy Beckman in the height of wildflower season for a relaxingly-paced tour through a wide variety of habitats including bottom land forest, flatwoods and scrub. We often see Florida Scrub-Jays, Swallow-tailed Kites, kestrels, meadowlarks, deer, gopher tortoises and you may see Bachman's Sparrows. The wagon is not fully accessible - those who may have difficulty with stairs should not register.

Outback Key Preserve – Boat Trip

8:00 – 11:15 am (carpool leaves 7:00 am)

Fri-T3 | \$50

Departure from Tampa Bay Watch Headquarters will take you offshore to learn basic identification tips for the birds we see when we visit Florida's spectacular beaches. Have fun learning identification and natural history of the common but often difficult-to-identify birds found on Florida's beaches from Eric Plage and Bo Fethe. Explore the variations and sort through some of the subtleties of their shapes and behaviors in this look at our fascinating birds of the beach.

Cross Bar Ranch, Spring Hill

8:00 am – Noon (carpool leaves 6:45 am)

Fri-T9 | \$20

With wetlands, oak hammock, pine flatwoods and open pastures, Cross Bar Ranch is prime birding but not normally open to the public. Accompanied by David Adams, Stuart Dawson, and Dr. Mary Keith, you will check for waders and burrowing owls. Scrub Jays, barred owls and even coyotes are possible sightings. Plan to consolidate into as few vehicles as possible at the ranch, preferably vehicles with AWD that can handle rough roads. Bring snacks and beverages, as there is nothing available at the site.

Honeymoon Island State Park, Pinellas County

8:30 – 11:30 am (carpool leaves 7:15 am)

Fri-T4 | \$20

Honeymoon Island's beaches and the causeway approach to the park are known hotspots for shorebirds, from the little peeps to Reddish Egrets doing their 'drunken sailor' dance. Spot Merlins patrolling the edges looking for unwary dinner items with John Hood and state park biologist Dan Larremore. On the island the Osprey Trail lives up to its name, plus there is the resident Great Horned Owl family and migrant passerines. Mangroves, lagoons and tidal flats provide diverse habitat.

Hillsborough River by Canoe

9:00 am – Noon (carpool leaves 8:15 am)

Fri-T5 | \$50

Enjoy a morning trip along the Hillsborough River through a diverse ecosystem led by Connie Anderson and Dave and Sandy Townsend. The river is of great ecological importance to the Tampa Bay area, and is excellent for wildlife watchers. Paddle from Sargeant Park to Morris Bridge Park for great birding and spotting an abundance of wildlife like turtles and alligators! And yes, you may bring your own canoe or kayak if you prefer.



Field Trips

Carpoolers meet and depart from the HCC Brandon campus

FRIDAY

Seven Wetlands, Polk County – Van Tour

9:00 am – Noon (carpool leaves 8:00 am)

Fri-T10 | \$30

Seven Wetlands combines multiple habitats - where old phosphate islands now act as productive rookeries. It is home to many listed species like American alligators, Wood Storks, Little Blue Herons, Tricolored Herons, Roseate Spoonbills, gopher tortoise and more. Tour the property in an air-conditioned van with wetland manager Julie Vogel and Doug DeNeve. You can also bring your packed lunch to enjoy at one of the outdoor, first-come first-served, picnic pavilions.

Mosaic Wellfield: Scrub-Jay Translocation Update

9:00 am – Noon (carpool leaves 8:00 am)

Fri-T6 | \$30 Deposit

You will be visiting Mosaic's Wellfield property with leaders Bill Brammell and Lauren Deaner, an approximate 1,000 acre area consisting primarily of native Florida scrub and scrubby flatwoods habitat to see Florida Scrub-Jay. Although translocations are now complete they continue to monitor the scrub-jay population and manage the habitat for scrub-jays. Transportation around the wellfield is by van to view scrub-jays and burrowing owls. Deposits refunded after Festival.

Lettuce Lake Regional Park, Beginning Birding

1:30 – 4:00 pm (carpool leaves 1:00 pm)

Fri-T7 | \$20

Lettuce Lake, which opened in 1982, consists of 240 acres, an interpretive center, a 3,500-foot boardwalk and an observation tower where visitors can view an extensive variety of wildlife. With Sherry Keller, expect to see a variety of water and upland birds, including herons, egrets, Limpkins, Ospreys, woodpeckers, vireos, warblers, Red-shouldered Hawks, Barred Owls, and more. This trip is oriented to beginning and intermediate birders. Park entrance fee of \$2.

Hillsborough River by Canoe

2:00 – 5:00 pm (carpool leaves 1:15 pm)

Fri-T8 | \$50

Enjoy an afternoon trip along the Hillsborough River through a diverse ecosystem led by Dave Sumpter and Tara Rambo. The river is of great ecological importance to the Tampa Bay area, and is excellent for wildlife watchers. Paddle from Sargeant Park to Morris Bridge Park for great birding and spotting an abundance of wildlife like turtles and alligators! And yes, you may bring your own canoe or kayak if you prefer. Please be there 30 minutes early to be ready to push off at 2:00 pm. Participants will be required to wear PFDs.



Field Trips

Carpoolers meet and depart from the HCC Brandon campus

SATURDAY

Schultz Preserve – Wildlife Habitats & Birds

7:30 – 11:30 am (carpool leaves 6:45 am)

Sat-T1 | \$20

Formerly used to deposit dredge material, the Schultz Preserve was restored to mangrove forest, coastal and freshwater marsh, coastal dunes and uplands. It provides habitat for fisheries, shorebirds, mangrove and upland wildlife, including bobcats and migrating neo-tropical songbirds. To date, 150 different species of birds have been found here. Join water management district biologist Brandt Henningsen, Paul Baicich, and Mic McCarty, and please note that the walking paths will be rough, and possibly not suitable for some. Wear closed-toe shoes.

Fort De Soto County Park, Extreme Birding

7:30 am – 1:00 pm (carpool leaves 6:30 am)

Sat-T2 | \$20

Fort De Soto County Park is a premier birding destination in Florida. More than 250 species of birds have been recorded in the park. With bird experts Dave Goodwin and Jim Eager, see the fall migration bringing neo-tropical migratory species to the park, as well as occasional wanderers from the Caribbean and western United States. The island's shorebird diversity is one of the best on the Florida west coast. This trip is intended for advanced birders, and is also offered on Sunday.

Lower Green Swamp Preserve – Wagon Tour

8:00 – 11:00 am (carpool leaves 7:00 am)

Sat-T3 | \$30

Lower Green Swamp Preserve, formerly the Cone Ranch, is an area of protected lands in northeastern Hillsborough County, and the largest parcel currently in the ELAPP Program. This trip, led by land managers Stephen Raymond, and Ross Dickerson, and bird expert Charlie Fisher will explore the Preserve from the back of a trailer. Habitats include pine uplands and open grasslands, and a crossing over lovely small stream. Possible sightings include the Red-headed Woodpecker to the elusive Bachman's Sparrow, with Wild Turkeys and quail down low and raptors on high.

Birding and Banding in Hammock Park, Dunedin

8:00 am – Noon (carpool leaves 7:00 am)

Sat-T8 | \$20

Come learn about bird banding from Jim McGinity, and observe how ornithologists use it to learn more about and conserve migratory birds with Steve Aversa. The group will first bird the park on the way to the banding station (about 1/2 mile). Then, you will get a chance to see some of the local migrants up close while researchers measure, weigh and band them. Participants will get a chance to help release any birds that have been caught.



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Field Trips

Carpoolers meet and depart from the HCC Brandon campus

SATURDAY

Perico Preserve of Manatee County

8:30 – 11:00 am (carpool leaves 7:15 am)

Sat-T4 | \$20

With support from project partners including the Southwest Florida Water Management District, Sarasota Bay Estuary Program, and Tampa Bay Estuary Program, 56 acres of this site that were formerly abandoned farmland with many exotic plants such as Brazilian pepper and Australian pine were restored. The site underwent restoration and creation of wetland and upland habitats. With Damon Moore and Cathy Davis, and Adam and Gina Kent, you should see wading birds, migrating warblers, raptors, and gopher tortoises too!

Terra Ceia Aquatic Preserve – Paddling Trip

9:00 am – Noon (carpool leaves 8:00 am)

Sat-T5 | \$50

Tampa Bay has few relatively natural, unobstructed tidal creeks left, and Frog Creek is one of the least developed and most species-rich. In a leisurely-paced paddling trip of a little over 2 miles with preserve manager Randy Runnels and Adrian Lesak, participants will experience a dramatic change in biota over a gradient from freshwater, with overhanging oaks, leather ferns, etc. to saltwater, with mangroves and oysters. This is an excellent foraging area for a variety of coastal bird species. Provided will be a combination of canoes and kayaks.

Mosaic Education Center –

Specially for Families with Children

9:00 am – 12:30 pm (carpool leaves 8:15 am)

Sat-T6 | \$20 Deposit

Hosted by Mosaic educator Shannon Derby, participants will have an opportunity to experience The Mosaic Coastal Education Center at Fiddler's Cove which is only open to select audiences: students in our community. This outdoor classroom provides an unforgettable educational experience through hands-on interactions such as: a nature hike and crab hunt, conducting water tests and seine netting, and enjoy bird watching of estuarine species. The \$20 deposit will be refunded after the Festival ends.

Schultz Preserve – Butterflies and Other Pollinators

1:00 – 4:00 pm (carpool leaves 12:15 pm)

Sat-T7 | \$20

Formerly used to deposit dredge material, the Fred and Idah Schultz Preserve was restored to mangrove forest, coastal and freshwater marsh, coastal dunes and uplands. The diverse habitats make it THE place in Hillsborough County for a wide variety of butterflies and other pollinators including the northernmost colony of Julia Butterflies. Enjoy the walk through varied habitats with insect experts John Lampkin, Paul Trunk, and Rob Epstein, but please note that the walking paths will be rough, and possibly not suitable for some. Wear closed-toe shoes.



Tours on the hour:
11:00 am, Noon, and 1:00 pm.

Friday & Saturday ~ right on campus

Field Trips

Carpoolers meet and depart from the HCC Brandon campus

SUNDAY

Fort De Soto County Park, Extreme Birding

7:30 am – 1:00 pm (carpool leaves 6:30 am)

Sun-T1 | \$20

Join Dave Goodwin, Jim Eager, and Dr. Steve Kress at Fort De Soto County Park - a premier birding destination in Florida. More than 250 species of birds have been recorded in the park, and fall migration brings neo-tropical migratory species as well as occasional wanderers from the Caribbean and the western United States. The island's shorebird diversity is one of the best on the Florida west coast. This trip is for advanced birders, and is offered on Saturday and Sunday.

Celery Fields, Sarasota County

8:00 – 11:00 am (carpool leaves 7:00 am)

Sun-T2 | \$20

One of the Gulf Coast's best birding hot spots, this site has been restored to a meandering stream with wetlands and grasslands nestled among the curves. A hill with trails overlooks the area, and two boardwalks allow access to the stream and marsh. With 220 species recorded at Celery Fields, the environment is a haven for limpkins, bitterns, rails and herons. There is also a nature center with native plant gardens to enjoy. Led by Jeanne Dubi, and Adam and Gina Kent.

Egmont Key National Wildlife Refuge – Boat Trip

8:30 am – Noon (carpool leaves 7:30 am)

Sun-T4 | \$50

Join refuge biologist Joyce Kleen and Barb and Dave Howard from the Friends of the Tampa Bay National Wildlife Refuge for a special boat cruise. Established to protect migratory birds, the island is the site of historic Fort Dade. Three hundred soldiers served at the fort from 1898-1923. The lighthouse, built in 1858, is still used for navigation. A key migratory bird fall-out site in fall migration, we expect to see warblers, other songbirds, raptors, gulls, terns, and other seabirds.

Circle B Bar Reserve, Polk County

8:30 am – 1:00 pm (carpool leaves 7:30 am)

Sun-T5 | \$20

Circle B Bar Reserve was once a lakeside marsh drained for cattle pasture. Now jointly owned and managed by Polk County and the Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD), the restored marshes are home to limpkins, purple and common gallinules, bitterns and an amazing variety of wintering, migrating and resident birds from bald eagles to sparrows. This field trip is being led by Doug DeNeve and Cindy Beckman.

Captain Gus' Crabby Adventure – Boat Trip

9:00 am – 1:00 pm (carpool leaves 8:00 am)

Sun-T6 | \$100

Come aboard and crew on Captain Gus Muench's commercial crab boat on Tampa Bay. This trip offers a unique and once-in-a-lifetime eco-experience with live blue crabs, stone crabs, and all the living creatures of the bay; featuring manatees, dolphins, bird life including Laughing Gulls, pelicans, herons, egrets, and ospreys. You will cast off near the mouth of the Little Manatee River and Tampa Bay. Gus will instruct "mates" on how crab traps are pulled and baited. Mates learn to grade, clean, and steam blue crabs and stone crabs. Captain Gus will let you pull the traps if you so desire. You will learn how crabs are caught and cooked from a professional crabber and help in the process. After a day on the water, Gus serves a seafood lunch, including crab salad, grilled shrimp, fried crabs, steamed crabs, fish, hush puppies, and a house salad.



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